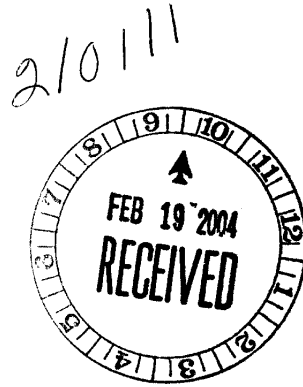


Indiana Trails Fund, Inc.

P. O. Box 402
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-0402
317-237-9348



18 February, 2004

via facsimile and by Fed Ex - 2 pages

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Mercury Building, #100
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20423-0001
202-565-1674
202-565-9003, fax

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Regards: STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 168x), Norfolk and Western
Railway Company - Abandonment Exemption - Between Kokomo
and Rochester in Howard Miami, and Fulton Counties, IN

Mr. Williams:

I am writing this letter to implore the STB to unambiguously declare two conditions in order to clarify a continuity of federal regulation over the line, specifically between Mileposts 75.5, near Peru, and 95.6, near Rochester, Indiana. One condition requested is that a NITU is imposed – in the name of the Indiana Trails Fund. The second condition requested - irregardless of doubts, delays, and/or the the Indiana Hi-Rail Bankruptcy - is that federal transportation authority has existed over the distance, as it was never rescinded by either the STB or Norfolk Southern RR (Norfolk Western Ry).

These urgent requests of continuity and NITU are to placate those who question that the line has been thoroughly railbanked, and to bolster confidence by local officials that the corridor is preserved as a transportation facility.

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Surface Transportation Board

This letter is to accompany a six page letter dated February 17, 2004, from Norfolk Southern Corporation, which more fully explains the circumstances of the Indiana Hi-Rail Bankruptcy as it relates to this docket. Further, this letter is to join other recent filings, by Norfolk and by ITF, to explain and request a Notice of Interim Trail Use.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Vonnegut". The signature is fluid and includes a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Vonnegut,
President

Enclosures:
one original
ten duplicates
one for return